A

LETTER

From a Gentleman in the COUNTRY,

To a Member of the *Houſe* of *COMMONS* in *England*; in Reference to the VOTES of the 14*th* of *December*, 97.

Relating to the

TRADE of IRELAND.

Together with An

ANSVVER

To the ſaid

LETTER.

DUBLIN, Re-printed for *Patrick Campbel*; and are to be ſold at his ſhop in *Skinner-row*. 1697.

A LETTER from a Gentleman in the Country, to a Member of the *House* of *Commons*, &c.

SIR,

THO you receive this from my hands, yet it is the Sense of your Sea and Land Neighbours in the Country, upon your Resolving *That a Committee be appointed to consider of the Trade of* England *and* Ireland, *and how to make the Trade of this Kingdom more Beneficial.*

We also hope that your House will consider in time of Peace, what may enable the Nation to Defend themselves in time of War. It cannot but be a trouble to all thinking Men, to see a Kingdom and People once so famous for Trade and Navigation, to fight themselves out of both; without reflecting on the Expence of 50 Millions *Sterling*; which was the Harvest of 700 Years, when this Nation was almost sole in the Tilledge of the Sea: Now we are incompass'd with Rivals, and cannot expect such plentiful Crops. Therefore we have as much reason to consider how to secure our Trade

in

in time of Peace, as we have our Liberties in time of War.

Among the many Rivals of our Trade and Navigation, I have often thought *Ireland* to be the moſt dangerous; and that which firſt led me into the opinion, was the practice of the two laſt Reigns, incouraging the *Iriſh* more than their *Engliſh* Subjects in Trade and Navigation; they being proper Tools to ſupport Popery and Slavery, which *Ireland* was a fit Nurſery for; and altho' the *Engliſh* there are mortal Enemies to the firſt, yet are they bred up with, and ſharers in the latter; that is, in the Power they have over the *Iriſh* in Arbitrary Adminiſtration; and that which firſt led the *Engliſh* into ſuch deſpotick Practice, was the numbers of the *Iriſh*, and their averſion to the *Engliſh* Laws and Religion; which upon any alteration of Government in *England*, the *Iriſh* get up in Rebellion. To prevent which, the *Engliſh* were forc'd to be Extraordinary in their Diſcipline over them; and this manage of inferiour Magiſtrates in the Country, was followed by ſuperiour Courts of Juſtice, until it reacht the *Engliſh* themſelves; yet could they not complain, ſince in their ſtations from the Conſtable to the Juſtice the ſame was practiſed. All which I think was deſigned to breed up Inſtruments for Arbitrary Government in *Ireland* to introduce it here, and we may remember *Iriſh* Judges removed from *Ireland* here to ſerve a Turn.

This

This I mention, tho' it may be thought Foreign to Trade, becauſe I think admitting *Ireland* to their own Conduct, either in Government, or Commerce, *&c.* is dangerous to *England*. But I ſhall not hold you longer from the ſubject of Trade, the deſign of this Letter; and that you may not thinke I write on common Fame, give me leave to tell you, that I have been concerned in the Trade of *Ireland*, and have been twice in that Kingdom, where I made the Obſervations following.

Firſt, That the Kingdom lyes with greater Advantage for Trade and Navigation than any Part in Europe.

Secondly, That both its Land and Seas are bleſt by Nature with better Products than any Part of Europe.

Thirdly, That it ſtands betwixt us and all the Profitable Commerce of the World.

Fourthly, That all this is in the Poſſeſſion of Foreigners and Iriſh, the Engliſh in *Ireland* being Proprietors of moſt of the Land, giving themſelves to Rural Employments.

This being matter of Fact, that you will conſider the reaſon *England* hath, to enquire into the diſpoſe and manage of the Trade of that Kingdom, which hath loſt this Nation ſo much Blood and Treaſure to recover, after 32 Rebellions.

In the compaſs of a Letter I cannot innumerate all the particulars where in *Ireland* interferes with

the

the Trade of *England*; I ſhall only inſiſt upon Five, *Viz.*

Firſt, That of their *Fiſhing*, which they have variety of ſorts more than we have in *England*, early on their Coaſt, nearer than we are to a Market; ſo that they may ſell before ours are out of the Sea.

Secondly, They have *Proviſions* of all ſorts *Fifty per Cent.* cheaper than we have.

Thrdily, They do by their cheapneſs of *Hides*, and plenty of *Bark*, make Land, and Leather, *Cent. per Cent.* cheaper than we can.

Fourthly, By their vaſt *Woods* they ſupply *France* and *Spain* with *Staves*, build Ships at *Fifty per Cent.* cheaper than we can, by which they *draw off from* England *our Ship-Carpenters*; which in the end may deſtroy our Navigation, and make them the Carryers of our Merchandize, and encreaſe their Seamen, which by the way, are moſt *Iriſh*; for as I ſaid before, the *Engliſh* generaly follow Country Imployments.

Fifthly, By the cheapneſs and large *Staple* of their *Wooll* multitude of *Iriſh Spinners*, and cheapneſs of their Work, they are in a fair way of being more than Rivals in our *Wollen Manufactury's*; great numbers of our *Clothiers* running into that Kingdom with what ſmall Stocks they have; which they are the more encourag'd unto by their raiſing the Coyn *Twenty per Cent.* above its Value in *England*; ſo that he which goes from hence with Eighty Pounds, hath a Hundred when he arrives in *Ireland*.

Thus

Thus at a blow we *loose our Manufacturies, Men*; and *Money*. A fair return you will say for our kindness in relieving them here; and restoring them there to their Estates: But that which I think the most unaccountable of all is, that we suffer them to *hold Parliaments, settle Estates, pass Attainders, Regulate our Trade, Pardon their own Rebellions*, that we have paid for. This could be done by nothing but Irish Assurance, nor endured by any but English Conquerors, for so I hope they will yet allow us to be, if not, that your House will take a course to make them remember it.

After what is said, you may expect I should propose some Expedients to prevent *Ireland* from running away with a Million Sterling *per Annum* of the Trade of this Nation.

What I conceive might be a Remedy to preserve us, and yet not hurt them, (for *I* am not Ruining our Brethren that are there,) is as followeth:

First, That they should not be admitted to *Build* or *keep at Sea any Ship*, but to have all the *Carriage* of that Kingdom by Ships of *England*.

Secondly, That they should be bounded and prescribed in all their Trade by Act of Parliament of *England*, not only to the places they shall Trade, but to the quantity of their Natural Product they shall Export, and to the Season and Time when, so that *England* may have the first Market.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, That they may not Fish but with Boats, and Men of *England*.

Fourthly, That their Money be brought to the Standard of *England*.

Fifthly, That they hold no Parliaments, but be Governed by the Parliament Laws of *England*.

Sixthly, That they be not permitted to make any *Manufactures* whatsoever, except Linnen.

I will trouble you no longer than to pray your Reading of Mr. *Carey* of *Bristols* Book, who hath writ with great Judgment and Affection to his Country on this subject. I wish we had more Men that considered the Trade of the Nation, the loss of which will be more dangerous than a standing Army.

A N

AN ANSWER TO A LETTER

From a Getleman in the Country, to a *Member* of the *Houſe* of COMMONS, in *ENGLAND.*

On the *VOTES* of the 14th of *December*, 1697.

Relating to the

TRADE of IRELAND.

SIR,

WE live in an Age where ſcribling is the Language of one Man to another, and too often uſed on a Subject, to which they are as much ſtrangers, as to each other's Perſon. This ſeems our caſe, we come abroad with the crow'd to pleaſe our ſelves, tho' we diſturb others; but that which brings me in Print is, becauſe I think Men of better Underſtanding will not trouble themſelves to Anſwer your unpoliſh'd Libel on the Government and our Bretheren in *Ireland*; and

by that means your Invectives might have the ſucceſs you wiſh't for, *viz.* a belief amongſt the Induſtrious part of the Nation; which, were they true, the firſt work of *England* ſhould be to remove our Friends, deſtroy the Natives, and ſend over a Hundred Thouſand Souldiers to keep the Iſland from *them*; that know how to make a good uſe of it, if we don't: But the beſt way of confuting your Maxims in Trade and *Government*, is to repeat them, and then a very few words will Anſwer them.

I begin with your aſſertion, *That it cannot but be the trouble of all thinking Men, to ſee a Kingdom and People once ſo famous for Trade and Navigation, to Fight themſelves out of both.* To this it's anſwer'd, I meet with few of your opinion, but ſuch as think the Nation did ill to fight at all.

Obedience to the late K. tho in Wooden Shooes, and Faggots on our backs, to *Smithfield* was our duty, your Holy Church tells us; but that which makes few believe it, is, that Doctrine was always preach't by Men of debauch'd Lives, and Proſtitutes for preferment. But, Sir, I muſt tell you what Men that think as much as your's, ſay; and that is, They believe that by the War which is ended with ſo much honour and advantage to the Nation, we have ſecured our Trade and Navigation, with ſomthing more that perhaps you are no friend unto *our Laws and Religion*; but as to Trade and Navigation, pray how ſhould we have

preſerved

preſerved them if the French had been Maſters of the *United Provinces*. For ſeeing we and the Dutch were fully imploy'd both together, to deal with the French alone, which way could we have blovvn the French and Dutch Fleets, out of the Sea in caſe they had been united. Thoſe that find fault vvith our War, vvould be pleaſed vvith our Captivity; ſoft vvords are called for by ſuch as are vvounded vvith Truths, therefore I ſhall not ſpeak my Thoughts of your Principels. You tell us of 700 *years Harveſt, and* 50 *Millions ſpent in this War*; if it vvere more, Engliſh-men think vve have the vvorth of it; but *I* hope you do not believe the vvhole 50 Millions are carryed out of the Kingdom, it is demonſtrable, that the greateſt part is ſtill amongſt us tho' *I* confeſs it may be in vvorſe hands than before the War. *I* muſt ovvn my ſelf no Friend to that practice vvhich inriches the Servant and beggers the Maſter: *It* ſhould be the abhorrence of all good Men, to ſee people in Civil *Imploy*ments ready ro burſt vvith unrighteous Gain; and the induſtrious Merchant languiſhing by the Oppreſſion of their Servants; but this vve hope vvill be inquired into.

Your next Paragraph begins thus, *Among the many rivals of our Trade and Navigation, I have often thought* Ireland *to be the moſt dangerous, and that which led me into this* Opinion, *was the practice of the two laſt* Reigns, *incouraging the Iriſh more than their Engliſh Subjects in Trade and Navigati-*

on,

on, thereby to make Ireland *a Nursery for Arbitrary Government, to which the Englisſh were abettors.*

There needs no other Anſwer to your Thoughts, '*That Ireland is moſt dangerous to the Trade of* '*England*, but that all the yearly Exports of *Ireland* amount not to the Value of one *Eaſt-India* Ships Cargoe, as will appear by what follows.

That you ſay of the deſign of the two laſt Reigns to introduce Arbitrary Government is not doubted, but that the Engliſh in *Ireland* were Abettors to it, is moſt manifeſtly Falſe; there were no Men in the Three Kingdoms that ventured their Lives more bravely againſt it then they did; and to them *I* think in a great meaſure we owe our Quiet and our Trade, on the late happy Revolution of this Kingdom, which *I* fancy is the reaſon you are ſo angry with them; perhaps you cannot forgive the ſtand they of *Inneskilling* and *Londonderry* made to the late Kings Army, when they deſigned for *Scotland* if they could have reduced thoſe Men in their way: They would then have been troubleſome to us nearer home, where *you* and *your Friends* were ready to receive them.

As to the Engliſh's being for *Arbitrary Government*, you are as much out, as in the numbers of the Iriſh Seamen; and leaſt you ſhould think I ſpeak at randome, as you do, *know* I was born in a City that hath a great ſhare in the Trade of *Ireland*, have been thrice in that Kingdom, and

mad

made all the Observation I could of the Nature, Trade, and Constitution of that Country; amongst other Things, I found they had very little Navigation; *Dublin* their Capital had not one Ship belonging to it, *Carickfergus*, or *Belfast*, and *Corck*, had a few small Craft, but not a Ship of Force or Burthen in the Kingdom. I enquired particularly the Number of their Irish Seamen, and by all I asked, was answered, they never saw one that could Top and Yard, a phrase they have among Seamen.

Your next Paragraph tells us, *How dangerous it is to* England *to leave* Ireland *to their own conduct in Trade and Government.*

Surely you are a stranger to the Laws of both Kingdoms, or else you would have known that they can Pass no Act of Parliament in *Ireland*, but what comes first from the King and Council here; and cannot alter one Word in it, but must take the Act just as it comes from *England.*

Your following Observations of the Situation, Nature, Product, *&c.* are true; for that Reason I think we should keep it in English Hands, and not follow your Proposals to drive them out: But of that when I come to your Expedients.

Now as to your *Five particulars*, wherein you say, *Ireland Interferes with the Trade of England*, First, *in that of their Fishing*, wherein no doubt they have Advantage above us, but they never had yet Men, Money, or Craft to make use of it; the

more's

on, thereby to make Ireland *a Nursery for Arbitrary Government, to which the English were abettors.*

There needs no other Answer to your Thoughts, '*That Ireland is most dangerous to the Trade of* 'England, but that all the yearly Exports of *Ireland* amount not to the Value of one *East-India* Ships Cargoe, as will appear by what follows.

That you say of the design of the two last Reigns to introduce Arbitrary Government is not doubted, but that the English in *Ireland* were Abettors to it, is most manifestly False; there were no Men in the Three Kingdoms that ventured their Lives more bravely against it then they did; and to them *I* think in a great measure we owe our Quiet and our Trade, on the late happy Revolution of this Kingdom, which *I* fancy is the reason you are so angry with them; perhaps you cannot forgive the stand they of *Inneskilling* and *Londonderry* made to the late Kings Army, when they designed for *Scotland* if they could have reduced those Men in their way. They would then have been troublesome to us nearer home, where *you* and *your Friends* were ready to receive them.

As to the English's being for *Arbitrary Government*, you are as much out, as in the numbers of the Irish Seamen; and least you should think I speak at randome, as you do, *know* I was born in a City that hath a great share in the Trade of *Ireland*, have been thrice in that Kingdom, and

mad

made all the Obſervation I could of the Nature, Trade, and Conſtitution of that Country; amongſt other Things, I found they had very little Navigation; *Dublin* their Capital had not one Ship belonging to it, *Carickfergus*, or *Belfaſt*, and *Cork*, had a few ſmall Craft, but not a Ship of Force or Burthen in the Kingdom. I enquired particularly the Number of their Iriſh Seamen, and by all I aſked, was anſwered, they never ſaw one that could Top and Yard, a phraſe they have among Seamen.

Your next Paragraph tells us, *How dangerous it is to* England *to leave* Ireland *to their own conduct in Trade and Government.*

Surely you are a ſtranger to the Laws of both Kingdoms, or elſe you would have known that they can Paſs no Act of Parliament in *Ireland*, but what comes firſt from the King and Council here; and cannot alter one Word in it, but muſt take the Act juſt as it comes from *England*.

Your following Obſervations of the Situation, Nature, Product, *&c.* are true; for that Reaſon I think we ſhould keep it in Engliſh Hands, and not follow your Propoſals to drive them out: But of that when I come to your Expedients.

Now as to your *Five particulars*, wherein you ſay, *Ireland Interferes with the Trade of England*, Firſt, *in that of their Fiſhing*, wherein no doubt they have Advantage above us, but they never had yet Men, Money, or Craft to make uſe of it; the

more's

more's the pity, it being a loſs to us, and *I* think a fault that we do not help them.

Your ſecond Aſſertion is true in part, *Their Proviſions are Cheaper*; but then let me tell you, they are not ſo good as ours, and their Butter and Cheeſe is near as dear.

Your third and fourth Obſervations, are ſo aparently Falſe, that one Word will Anſwer them both; you ſay, *you have been twice in* Ireland; but beſides your ſelf, I may venture to ſay, there was never any man in it, but can tell you, there is not Timber to ſupply the tenth part of the Uſe of the Kingdom; *I* have ſeen a Survey of all the Woods in that Iſland, and except *Shellela*, there is not ſo much valuable Timber in the whole, as one Gentleman hath in *England*. Surely then we are in no danger of their *Building Ships* or *Tanning Leather*.

Your Fifth Obſervation is of their *Wool*, in which you are right; but as for the *multitude of Iriſh Spinners*, you are in an Error; they are ſo far from being *our Rivals in the Woollen Manufacture*, that this laſt year they could not get ſo much in all the Country as to cloath their ſmall Army.

But however, *I* think we have reaſon to look carefully into that Manufactury, which is the *Soul* of all we have left of Trade, and yet *I* ſee Advocates for the *Eaſt-India* Trade to the deſtruction of our Manufactury at home.

In

In this methinks we Act like ill Husbands, that being Abuſed abroad, Revenge themſelves at home on their Wives and Children. We are wheedl'd out of our Manufacturies, by Deſigning Men amongſt our ſelves, kick'd out of our *Fiſhing* abroad, and then, like *Sampſon*, we pull down the Houſe upon our ſelves, to be reveng'd for our two *Eyes*. So *I* take our *Woollen Manufactury, and Fiſhing* to be. But let us deſtroy *Ireland*, beat our Wives and Children, and we ſhall Recover all.

You end your Fifth Paragraph with that which you think the moſt unaccountable of all, T*he ſuffering them to hold Parliaments.*

Now Sir, if you never read Hiſtory, and ſo are ignorant how the Crown of *England* came firſt to intituled to *Ireland*, then it is great Aſſurance in you to talk of the Conſtitution of a Kingdom, you know nothing of; if you have Read, you muſt know there was a Compact that they ſhould hold Parliaments, with the ſame Privileges as *England*: and altho' they have by their own Parliaments abridged themſelves by P*oynings Law* in ſome things, yet have they ſtill an Act of Parliament for *Annual* P*arliaments*, and another *Act*, that all Laws made in *England* before the Tenth of *Henry* VII. ſhould be in force in *Ireland*. *I* believe you will own we had Parliaments in *England* before *Henry VII.* they have then the ſame Right to hold Parliaments, that we have, but they

they are a poor People, and muſt ſubmit. Have a care of that French Maxim (we know not whoſe turn it may be next) I remember in the Reign of *Charles II.* diſcourſing with the Duke of *Ormond* (who I think, take him every way, was one of the greateſt Men of that time) upon the Tryal of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, his Grace ſaid, *My Lord Shaftsbury was never my Friend, yet were I a Commoner and one of his Jury, I would ſtarve before I would find him Guilty by ſtraining the Law: We muſt have a care of Conſtitutions and Laws, they are of better uſe to preſerve our ſelves, than to take off our Enemies.* If you were of this opinion, you would not be againſt *Ireland's* holding Parliaments: have a care, Sir, of breaking into Conſtitutions, we know not who may come next, we are ſure His preſent Majeſty will preſerve our Conſtitution, and it 'tis our happineſs, He is more tender of them then many of our ſelves; but if we will deſtroy them in a good Reign, there may come a time when our own Preſidents may be brought againſt us.

You end your Paragraph with an Invective ſaying, *You hope the Houſe will make them Remember they were Conquered.* I remember to have ſeen a Book in this Reign, by Order of Parliament, Burnt by the Common-Hangman, for Aſſerting that conquering Doctrine. It is by our Laws that all the Monarchs of *England*, and amonſt the reſt his preſent *Majeſty* is declared to be King of *Ireland, de Jure*, when King of *England de Facto*.

Now

Now if you pleaſe to remember, the Britiſh of *Ireland, who are Proprietors of moſt of that Kingdom*, were as one man in the Intereſt of *England*; fought (as is ſaid before) for and with the King, that came to deliver them from the *Uſurpation and Tyranny of the late King* James; for ſo it was, He having loſt his Title by *Abdication*, before he came to *Ireland*; And King *William* came there to reſcue his Proteſtant Subjects in *Ireland*, from the *Ravage and Murders of the* Rebellious Iriſh *Subjects*. This I hope you will not make a Conqueſt, if it be, we have had two or three of them in this Reign by the Execution of Traytors at *Tyburn*.

You now come to your Expedients, wich are like that of an Engliſh Sea Captain, that being in danger of two *Dunkirk Men of War*, a French Officer on Board him, Asked the Captain *what he ſhould do, for he dreaded being carryed into France*, *Never fear*, ſaid the Captain, *I wont be taken: How can you be ſure of that*, ſaid the French Man? *I will firſt blow up my Ship*, reply'd the Captain; at which *Monſieur* ſhrug'd his ſhoulders and ſaid, *Par ma foy un tres bon expedient Anglois*. So are your Expedients; as will appear preſently. *I* will repeat them in order, and then one Anſwer will ſerve them all.

they are a poor People, and muſt ſubmit. Have a care of that French Maxim (we know not whoſe turn it may be next) I remember in the Reign of *Charles II.* diſcourſing with the Duke of *Ormond* (who I think, take him every way, was one of the greateſt Men of that time) upon the Tryal of the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, his Grace ſaid, *My Lord Shaftsbury was never my Friend, yet were I a Commoner and one of his Jury, I would ſtarve before I would find him Guilty by ſtraining the Law: We muſt have a care of Conſtitutions and Laws, they are of better uſe to preſerve our ſelves, than to take off our Enemies.* If you were of this opinion, you would not be againſt *Ireland's* holding Parliaments: have a care, Sir, of breaking into Conſtitutions, we know not who may come next, we are ſure His preſent Majeſty will preſerve our Conſtitution, and it 'tis our happineſs, He is more tender of them then many of our ſelves; but if we will deſtroy them in a good Reign, there may come a time when our own Preſidents may be brought againſt us.

You end your Paragraph with an Invective ſaying, *You hope the Houſe will make them Remember they were Conquered.* I remember to have ſeen a Book in this Reign, by Order of Parliament, Burnt by the Common-Hangman, for Aſſerring that conquering Doctrine. It is by our Laws that all the Monarchs of *England*, and amonſt the reſt his preſent *Majeſty* is declared to be King of *Ireland, de Jure*, when King of *England de Facto*.

Now

Now if you pleaſe to remember, the Britiſh of *Ireland, who are Proprietors of moſt of that Kingdom,* were as one man in the Intereſt of *England*; fought (as is ſaid before) for and with the King, that came to deliver them from the *Uſurpation and Tyranny of the late King* James; for ſo it was, He having loſt his Title by *Abdication*, before he came to *Ireland*; And King *William* came there to reſcue his Proteſtant Subjects in *Ireland*, from the *Ravage and Murders of the* Rebellious Iriſh *Subjects.* This I hope you will not make a Conqueſt, if it be, we have had two or three of them in this Reign by the Execution of Traytors at *Tyburn.*

You now come to your Expedients, wich are like that of an Engliſh Sea Captain, that being in danger of two *Dunkirk Men of War*, a French Officer on Board him, Asked the Captain *what he ſhould do, for he dreaded being carryed into France, Never fear*, ſaid the Captain, *I wont be taken: How can you be ſure of that*, ſaid the French Man? *I will firſt blow up my Ship*, reply'd the Captain; at which *Monſieur* ſhrug'd his ſhoulders and ſaid, *Par ma foy un tres bon expedient Anglois.* So are your Expedients; as will appear preſently. *I* will repeat them in order, and then one Anſwer will ſerve them all.

1. *That they ſhould not Build, or keep at Sea one Ship.*

2. *That they be Bounded & Preſcribed in all their Trade by Act of Parliament here; not only to the place they ſhall go, but alſo to the Qualities and Natures of the Commodities they Export, and to the Time when they ſhall export that we may have the firſt market.*

3. *That they ſhould not Fiſh but with Men and Boats of* England.

4. *That their Money be brought to the Standard of* England.

5. *That they hold no Parliament, but be Governed by the Parliament of* England.

6. *That they be not permitted to make any Manufacturies but Linnen.*

I told you before, one Anſwer ſhould ſerve for them all, and that ſhall be with a Queſtion, ſuch as a Porter made a Lord *Mayor of London*, in the Uſurpers time, (for Regulating the Price of Beer, was Proclaiming) *That none ſhould be ſold for more then a Penny a Quart:* A Porter ſtanding by my Lord Mayors Horſe, call'd out, *that there was the moſt material thing left out, which was, appointing who ſhould drink that ſmall Beer, for he ſwore*

ſwore he'd drink none? So, *Sir*, you ſhould have appointed in your Expedients, who ſhould live in *Ireland*; for no Engliſhman will: And ſurely our Nation will not think it ſafe in any others Hands.

Methinks you make a bold ſtroke to propoſe *Ireland* ſhould be Governed by the Parliament of *England*; that, in Engliſh, is *Loping off* one of the Three Kingdoms from the Crown. Your Scheme of Government exceeds all I ever read of; you would make *Ireland* to be a *Common wealth*, but none of the Country to be in the Government; ſure ſome body need Govern you, tho' it were in *Bedlam*.

You and your Letter with referring to Mr. *Cary* of *Briſtol's* Book; I know the Gentleman and have diſcourſed on his Book, which tho' it comes not to your Notions, yet he abated much of it in *Explanation*. And now, Sir, with your leave, I ſhall make ſome General Remarks on your whole Letter: What you ſay *of the extraordinary Advantages* Ireland *hath above us in* Trade *and Navigation*, is true, and it is as true, that they never had oppertunity to make uſe of them.

The Brittiſh in general ſpeaking, acquiring their Fortunes there by Arms, not with *Arts* or *Trade*; thoſe few that come there with either of the the two laſt

laſt, are uſually ſuch as have miſcarryed in their own Country; ſo far want of ſtock do rarely more than earn their Bread in that plentiful Country. Frequent Rebellions leſſens the Inhabitants but adds Acres to the Britiſh; which they are more fond of, then Navigation and Commerce: And ſo far you are in the right, *that they are moſt taken up in Country Imployments*, but you are much in the wrong in ſaying, *the Iriſh are moſt in the Trade and Navigation*; they ſeldom ſail further then to a Potatoe Garden and Trade only in Cowes. I have been in ſeveral Parts of the World, and according to my Obſervation, the Iriſh are as ignorant of Trade and Navigation as the *Indians* in *America*. Now that you ſhould *fear their numbers at Sea*, that have not Five Seamen of their Nation, gives ground to believe, you writ with Jeſuitical Maxims; *throw Dirt --- however falſe, ſome may ſtick.* Put into the Heads of the multitude, frightful ſtories of the danger we are in of being over-run by the Iriſh both at Land and Sea; and that you may have two ſtrings to your bow, you bring in *Foreigners Running away with what the Iriſh do not of the Trade of* Ireland. To ſhew your integrity in this, I will give undeniable Authority out of the Cuſtom-houſe Books of *Ireland* againſt you.

I have now by me an exact Account of all the Exports and Imports of *Ireland*; for ſix Years of the greateſt time of *Irelands* proſperity, and by this Ac-

Account their Exports in the Year 1682, amounted but to Five Hundred Forty One Thousand Four Hundred and Nineteen Pounds Sterling, of which Four Hundred and two Thousand Pounds was for Accompt of Merchants in *England*; and Exported in their Ships, One Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling, for Accompt of the English in *Ireland*, and about Forty Thousand for Accompt of Foreigners. And that you may not think this computation was made at random; I will tell you how it was done.

The whole Account was drawn out of the Custom-house Books by a Clerk under the Examiner of their Accounts, with every Merchants Name that entered them, and to what place the Ship belonged, in which the Goods were Exported: this was after all brought into Form by a Man of the greatest Practice and Experience that perchance was ever a Trader in that Kingdom, who knew for whom the most considerable Factors dealt: (For by the way, most of the Trade of that Kingdom is managed by Factors.) This Gentleman did assure me with demonstrations more then can be comprehended in the compass of this Discourse, that there was very little Exceptions to be made to this Account, which he spent some years in perfecting, for he writ Observations on every Commodity Exported and Imported. What is here brought against your *matter of Fact*, as you call it, is *I* think undeniable.

And

And that your ignorance in Commerce may appear, I will ſhew that what you ſay of *Foreigners running away with the Trade of* Ireland, is impoſſible; and that for theſe Reaſons.

1. Firſt, becauſe the greateſt part of their Product is by their own Laws prohibited to all parts of the World but *England* as their *Wool*, *Sheep-Skins*, *Woolen*, *Yarn*, *Linnen-yarn*; Green and Tan'd Hides pay double Duty upon their Export to any part but *England*; all which Commodities are more then half their Export.

2. The *Act of Navigation* is in Force by Law in *Ireland*. Now Sir, if you know not my meaning by mentioning that Act, it is, That by that Statute *no Foreign Ship can carry any Goods from* Ireland *to* England.

3. The greateſt part of the Proviſions of *Ireland*, are Exported by ſhips of *England* to our Foreign Plantations for little Beeff, or Porke, whatever we think, goes to Foreign Markets, now the Act of Navigation before mentioned, Prohibits all Foreign Ships from Trading to our Plantations.

4. By Law they are Prohibited the Importation of any, tho Commodities of our Foreign Plantations but from *England*, not ſo much as a Pound of

of Tobacco or Sugar is admitted into *Ireland*, but what comes from *England*; I may add, that they Forfeit Ship and Goods, if they carry out of *Ireland* any thing but Proviſions, Servants and Horſes. I knew a Ship ſeiz'd in *Virginia* for bringing but a Dozen of *Woollen Stockens* from *Ireland*. After all this, pray what is there left for Foreigners to drive that mighty Trade you ſpeak of in *Ireland*.

I think it proper to inquire now where the Million is, you tell us *Ireland runs away with of the Trade of England*; it is proved, that their whole Annual Exports amounts to little more then one half of your Million, and of that Four Hundred Thouſand goes for *England*, and Engliſh Merchants Accounts; you have then but Forty Thouſand Pounds to raiſe your Million out of.

There is another Remarkable *Inſtance* you give *of the danger we are in by raiſing their Money* 20 *per Cent.* above it's value; it would be no very mannerly queſtion to ask you where you have been for this 12 Months, in which time the nature of Coyn hath been ſo fully Debated and reſolved in Parliament, and explained to the whole Nation, and thought every one in it was convinced, that by Raiſing Money we cheated no body but our ſelves; and I do not think but that the Gentlemen of *Ireland* underſtand that Truth, but neceſſity often

ten prevails over Judgment; we know not their Circumſtances, only may gueſs, that a Country who in their greateſt Proſperity had never Four Hundred Thouſand Pounds Sterling, of Running Caſh, and Two Hundred and Forty Thouſand Pounds *per Annum* of the Rents of that Kingdom, belonging unto and ſpent in this, are in hazard of having all carryed out. But let their conſideration be what it will, *I* think we have no reaſon to fear, but rather pitty them in this matter.

I had like to have paſt over your moſt ſenſible part; for it in Truth ſhews the Man and his Converſation.

Your Words are theſe, *But that which I think the moſt unaccountable of all is, that we ſuffer them to hold Parliaments, Settle Eſtates, Pardon their own Rebellions. &c.*

It is plain what you mean, but it comes ſo near Arraigning the Government, that you durſt not expreſs it in plain Words; the late King *JAMES* with his Iriſh *Mob*, that he called a Parliament in *Dublin*, did there Attaint all the Britiſh Proteſtants by Name, that owned King *William* their Rightful Lawful King; and to make ſure of all the Proteſtants Eſtates in that Kingdom, there pretended Act named Women and Children that never ſaw Iriſh Ground. Now this Rebellious Edict of the Iriſh

Iriſh, the preſent Parliament of *Ireland* have declared and Enacted *Illegal* and Rebellious, and the pretended Parliament that made it, to be then in Rebellion againſt the Crown of *England*. And for this you ſay, the Parliaments of *Ireland* pardon their own Rebellions; for you do inſinuate their being in Rebellion when they left the late King *James*: Truly Sir, by what *I* hear of that Parliament, they are ſo far from pardoning Rebellions, that they expel'd one of their own Members for but a ſmall overt Act in the time of the late King *James*'s being in *Ireland*. They are a People (*I* am ſorry it ſhould be ſo in reſpect of our ſelves, tho *I* commend it in them,) that are not divided, as we are, in parties, but as one Man in His Majeſties intereſt, except a very few that are advanced in the Kings Service, as too many have been here, by miſtake of ſome, and deſign of others; however thoſe plants grow not in *Ireland*; it is Obſerved no venemous Creature brought from *England* lives there; *I* ſuppoſe you never intend to try.

I have now done with your Letter, and ſhall end mine with directing what follows, to Men of better Principles then you ſeem to be; and ſuch I preſume will not uſe *Ireland* as the Harlot would have had the Child, her Language was like yours, *divide the Child, let it be neither thine nor mine*, Your Friends have neither right nor Poſſeſſion of it, and they that have you Maligne; But all true

Engliſhmen conſider them as *bone of our bone*, and it is reaſonable to believe the *Houſe of Commons* paſſed that Vote *for making the Trade of Ireland more beneficial to* England, with that conſideration, there is no doubt, room enough to make it ſo.

I have often thought it would be one of the firſt Works the Parliament would go upon, at the concluſion of a Peace, and not to let ſuch a Treaſure as that Iſland might be made to *England*, lie waſte, as it hath always been ever ſince the Engliſh have had Footing in it, which is unaccountable; it would be thought ſo in the conduct of a Private Man, if he ſhould neglect his own Inheritance and lay out his Money in Improving that of another Man's; is it not ſo when we imploy our Men and Money to enrich the Subjects of the *Mogul*, and neglect a Country of our own ſo near as that, if rightly managed, would ſtrengthen and enrich our Nation more then all the Trade we have in the World beſides. What would *France* make of it if they had it? I do not think they would cry it down, as the deſtruction of their Kingdom: We

have

have perhaps more reaſon to value it then is at preſent ſeen; I doubt we are in more danger of loſing our Trade and Navigation, then ever we were in ſince we were a People; and it is feared we have nothing left to help us but *Ireland*; but then it muſt not be left to former Conduct, I am loath to ſay what I know in this matter.

We ſhould alſo conſider, the Reaſon we have to incourage *Britiſh Planters* in that Kingdom; for no other can ſecure it to *England*. But I have been too long for a letter, tho too ſhort for the Subject; I ſhall only give my humble Opinion, *That it would be for the Service of* England *in this great Concern of ſetling the* TRADE *of both Kingdoms, to hear the People of* Ireland

Engliſhmen conſider them as *bone of our bone*, and it is reaſonable to believe the *Houſe of Commons* paſſed that Vote *for making the Trade of Ireland more beneficial to* England, with that conſideration, there is no doubt, room enough to make it ſo.

I have often thought it would be one of the firſt Works the Parliament would go upon, at the concluſion of a Peace, and not to let ſuch a Treaſure as that Iſland might be made to *England*, lie waſte, as it hath always been ever ſince the Engliſh have had Footing in it, which is unaccountable; it would be thought ſo in the conduct of a Private Man, if he ſhould neglect his own Inheritance and lay out his Money in Improving that of another Man's; is it not ſo when we imploy our Men and Money to enrich the Subjects of the *Mogul*, and neglect a Country of our own ſo near as that, if rightly managed, would ſtrengthen and enrich our Nation more then all the Trade we have in the World beſides. What would *France* make of it if they had it? I do not think they would cry it down, as the deſtruction of their Kingdom: We

have

have perhaps more reaſon to value it then is at preſent ſeen; I doubt we are in more danger of loſing our Trade and Navigation, then ever we were in ſince we were a People; and it is feared we have nothing left to help us but *Ireland*; but then it muſt not be left to former Conduct, I am loath to ſay what I know in this matter.

We ſhould alſo conſider, the Reaſon we have to incourage *Britiſh Planters* in that Kingdom; for no other can ſecure it to *England*. But *I* have been too long for a letter, tho too ſhort for the Subject; I ſhall only give my humble Opinion, *That it would be for the Service of* England *in this great Concern of ſetling the TRADE of both Kingdoms, to hear the People of* Ireland

and *before they conclude them*, hear him, hear him, *is Parliament Language, and Christian Practice, before Judgment.* I end with the Words of *Seneca* in his Morals,

He that lives according to Reason shall never be poor: And he that governs his Life, by Opinion, shall never be Rich.

FINIS.

SOME TESTIMONIES

Of the most Eminent

English *Dissenters*,

As Also Of

Foreign *Reformed* Churches and Divines,

Concerning the Lawfulness *of the* Rites and Ceremonies *of the* Church of England, *and the* Unlawfulness *of* Separating *from It.*

Imprimatur,

AR. CHARLETT.

June 15. 1706.

OXFORD,

Printed at the Theater for *Jo. Stephens*, and are to be sold by *James Knapton* at the Crown in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard, *London*. 1706.

and *before they conclude them*, hear him, hear him, *is Parliament Language, and Christian Practice, before Judgment.* I end with the Words of *Seneca* in his Morals,

He that lives according to Reason shall never be poor: And he that governs his Life, by Opinion, shall never be Rich.

FINIS.